

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present RCE claims 11-17, and 20-25 remain in the application.

Claim 21 was previously rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The range has been amended to avoid further rejection on this ground.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner has withdrawn the rejection of claims 11-17 and 20-25 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Haasmaa et al. (US 6,656,984).

With regard to the remaining rejections, on the basis of prior art, the applicant relies on the arguments made in the previously filed response. In addition, the Advisory Action indicates that the Examiner has not considered the 1.132 Declaration of Gregor Bruce Yeo Christie filed in parent application 09/857,611 since it was not filed in the present application. An official copy from PAIR accompanies this amendment and the pertinent portions that support the claims are provided below.

8. This formulation was developed from extensive research to find an optimum mix that gave satisfactory properties and processability at a cost that was comparable to that of currently used polymers. The fast biodegradability of the blends is dependent on both the starch and the other polymer component being water soluble. The major reduction in cost was achieved by reducing the amount of polymer in component b). Cost is also reduced by reducing the amount of non water plasticizer to below 10%.
9. This formulation allows the extrusion processing to operate without caking of the extruder and without the need to vent the die. The polymers are blended for processing to form a melt at relative low temperatures of 130°C to 160°C. The die temperatures for the process can be maintained within the range of 85°C to 105°C which is much lower than was possible with prior art formulations. Operating at lower die temperatures reduces the need for venting and improves the performance characteristics of the polymer blend. These processing characteristics are derived from the

combination of modified starch, natural starch and lower proportions of the water soluble non starch polymer as well as the inclusion of water as the essential plasticizer and a polyol as an optional additional plasticizer.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21444-00009-US2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By /Morris Liss/

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